

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES- VOLUNTEER UPDATE

REFUGE UPDATES, UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND COOL FACTS



WHAT'S HAPPENING?-JANUARY 2016

Greetings Volunteers! Thanks for your efforts in volunteering for the Florida Keys NWR's Complex and our Friends group FAVOR . We hope you had a fun and relaxing holiday season. Wishing you a wonderful New Years as well!



What's happening?

Guided Walks, Bikes, Kayaks (meet at 9am)

Wednesday, January 13th- Guided Walk- No Name Key: from pinelands to wetlands to hardwood hammocks (2 miles., 2hrs)

Friday January 15th. Guided Bike Ride through National Key Deer Refuge lands on Big Torch Key. Flat, easy pace. Come see what this part of the refuge looks like. (10 miles,)

Wednesday, January 20th. Wild Wednesday Kayak excursion into the backcountry of Great White Heron NWR. Launching at Koehn Avenue boat ramp, paddling away at 10 am. (4-5 miles, approx. 3 hrs). Must reserve spot, email NKDRtrips@gmail.com

Friday, January 22nd- Bike Refuge lands on Lower Sugarloaf/Saddlebunch Key as you ride through a tunnel of vegetation that was old State Road 4A, the original road to Key West (6.5 miles, 2 hrs).

Camp Run-A-Muk— January 26th, 27th and 28th, 9am-1pm. Our adult summer camp, because....Why should kids have all the fun? Cost =\$35. Covers food, t-shirt, kayak adventure into Great White Heron NWR.

FAVOR Full Moon Kayak— January 22nd-4-6pm \$25 covers all

Volunteer Opportunities: Outdoor Fest

Outdoor Fest- We need help! General meeting for everyone interested in assisting: **Thursday Jan. 21st, 2-4pm.** We need volunteers to assist with specific tasks. If you have any interest in assisting with this most awesome of events, please come to this meeting at the Visitor Center.

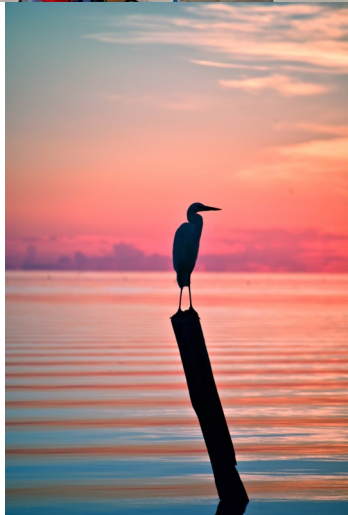
Outdoor Fest Members-Only Events

We have two special Outdoor Fest events made for refuge volunteers (>50 volunteer hours 2015) and FAVOR members.

- 1) Tie One On— Make your own tie dye outdoor fest shirt
- 2) Guided Walk /Behind the Scenes Tour



Photo : Mickey Foster



Crocodile Lake NWR

updates: From Jeremy Dixon: "We had a fabulous turnout at Crocodile Lake NWR for Saturday's workday. It was one of the biggest crews we've had in a long time, over 30 people, and they got a tremendous amount of work accomplished. People brought tons of delicious food and happily crowded into the administration building to share in fellowship. Our volunteers are a terrific group of people"

Upcoming: Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge Hardwood Hammock Workday **December 12, 2015 9am - 12pm** 10750 County Road 905, Key Largo. Please join us to remove trash and debris on the Refuge. Bring gloves, water, sunscreen, and bug spray. For more information/RSVP, please contact crocodilelake@fws.gov or 305-451-4223

Thanks to RV workcamper Anne Jex who did a fantastic job of repainting FAVOR's donation box!



Upcoming Events:

Saturday, Dec. 5th. FAVOR is hosting a trash cleanup and potluck picnic on Lower Sugarloaf/Saddlebunch Keys. Cleanup runs 10a-12p at the western end of SR 4A on Saddlebunch Key, then potluck picnic at Sammy's Creek park. Everyone welcome. Contact Robert to reserve your burgers (veggie and regular) and or hot dogs. Everyone welcome and appreciated. Robert @ 305-849-7484 or robertskeeley@yahoo.com

Mark your Calendars:

Sat. Jan. 2nd, 2016— 1st Refuge XMAS Bird Count

Thur. Jan. 7th. Volunteer Orientation-for all vols

Sat. Jan. 9th. FAVOR General Annual Meeting with exciting new format. (you won't want to miss!)

March 2016: First ever Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges "OUTDOOR FEST" coming March 17-20th 2016.

Poster photo (on left) taken by refuge volunteer Mickey Foster.

A special “shout-out” to all our young volunteers and SCA interns who have been a huge help in assisting with all aspects of the biological research and visitor services, in both the Lower Keys refuges and up at Croc Lake. A few are leaving in December and we want to wish them the best of luck in their future. Thanks is due to Korrie, Jill, Erik, Lauren, Caitlin and Bryan for your enthusiasm, assistance, and great ideas the last several months!

